

# California GARDEN

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JUNE  
1941



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## In a Yorkshire Garden

"So now, in conclusion, do I recommend you,

And me, and all of us,

To the keeping of a happy and  
humble spirit,

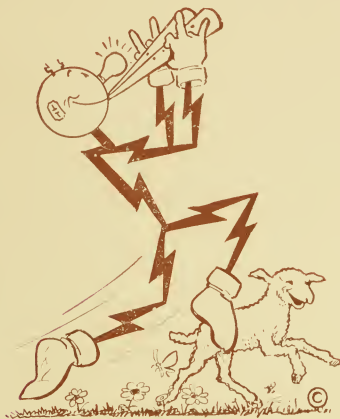
Such as the love of a garden

Ought surely to engender."

Reginald Farrer.



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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
P. O. Box 823, San Diego, Calif.

Roland S. Hoyt, Editor

John D. Wimmer, Assoc. Editor

JUNE, 1941

Vol. 31

No. 23

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month.

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year; Membership \$1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, \$2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Building, Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

## A Plea for the Composites

By ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

This is a word for the composites that are of our natives, for of course most gardens are adorned with those others, more commonly known composites, such as Cinerarias, Asters, Chrysanthemums, to say nothing of the ubiquitous Dandelions in our lawns. There are, as I hope to show, many beautiful native plants, some of them exceedingly showy, which should be and are not now represented in our gardens.

On Cuyamaca Peak, at the foot of the steps leading to the outlook, there grew a shrub that would be an ornament to any garden. The man stationed there said that he had cleared a space about the building, cutting all plants to the ground. This one survived, the better for the "savage pruning" to which it had been subjected and formed a beautiful symmetrical shrub, a blaze of golden yellow flowers (Aplopappus Parishii). Its common name is goldenbush.

At the Desert View point at Laguna, in the crevice in the rock, grew a beautiful little plant, which then and there became an object with a "must-have" attached to it, as a plant for the rock garden; it was a lower growing species of the same genus (Aplopappus cuneatus var. spatulatus), but a plant of very different appearance. Almost prostrate it spread its tiny dark green, wedge-shaped leaves, a back-

ground for its golden blossoms.

At Cuyamaca a slender pink-flowered corethrogyne sent its slender stems up through the branches of a larger plant (one of the Eriogonums or wild buckwheats), forming what would be a worthwhile motif for an extremely worthwhile planting.

So many times there comes to us when we see these things growing in the wild, a vision of what might be achieved by their use in our own garden spot. Of course it would be impossible to reproduce all these combinations that so catch our fancy, but many of the beautiful things would be equally attractive for us, even in the more conventional surroundings of our gardens.

Miss Sessions in one of her later articles emphasized the use of the soft gray greens. An outstanding example of the delicate beauty afforded by these soft tones is the lovely tracery of the Silver Artemisia, our version of the Big Basin Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata angustifolia). Beautiful in the garden, it is delightful cut for vases, either alone or with other flowers, and when cut, it will persist for months without water, retaining its beautiful silvery sheen.

Next to it in my garden is its sister, Artemisia Douglasii, the foliage in this case dark, rich green above and silvery gray beneath. This loses its beauty somewhat when

in bloom. Incidentally this may be useful as well as beautiful, blending, as it does well, with other herbs as a condiment. Truth compels me to admit, however, that it may spread too rapidly to be pleasing as it grows from running rootstocks. However, it is easily controlled.

Another beautiful shrub with the gray note in its foliage is the Encinso, Encelia farinosa. It is a desert dweller and in the garden, should it receive more than its need of water and food, is apt to lose its gray tones somewhat. Its flowers are bright gold-desert gold. The desert is sometimes alive, flaming with its glow.

Hulsea is a striking and rather handsome plant; its yellow flowers are shrouded with the same cobwebby covering that appears in the familiar Venidium.

Coreopsis maritima or Sea Dahlia, is well known to us all; with its fine-cut foliage and large yellow blossoms it can well hold its own in any garden. One advantage it possesses for those of us who are sometimes impatient, is that although it is a perennial, blossoms will reward us in its first year.

Our goldenrods go without saying as desirable for their fine golden blossoms appearing in feathery sprays. They need no further word, for we all know and like them.

Nature has a way of blending her colorings at different seasons so that their tones are harmonious. In the fall when many of the golden flowered composites are blooming, also appear their representatives in lavender and purple, that seem to

harmonize perfectly. Again a remembered grouping at the ford of the Santa Margarita river, when the purple heads of the *Pluchea* furnished the key-note of the composition. To some, the odor of this plant is objectional, but I do not find it so. Its name will give a clue to its odor. It is known as *Pluchea camphorata*.

An *Erigeron* with narrow violet-purple flowers, adds a delightful touch of color and rather an airy effect. A desert aster (*Aster Orcuttii*) is a beautiful plant; a stiff, rather stately plant with gray, almost white stems and large, beautiful flowers three inches across, with delicate lavender rays. Growing low, one of our little annuals would be delightful, the tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) or the familiar goldfields (*Baeria*).

The list of Composites to be desired might well be a long one; I will however mention only one more, a truly beautiful little thing which I have not, but will never be content until I do have, *Monoptilon bellioides*. It is a tiny plant with daisy-like flowers; it grows on the desert floor, forming little mats. They are fairy like in their exquisite beauty. They are sometimes called desert stars.

I must have more of these composites in my garden!

—Ethel Bailey Higgins.

Natural History Museum.

#### APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Floral Association was featured by an illustrated lecture by our old friend, that distinguished dahlia grower of La Mesa, Hermon Lodge.

Mr. Lodge displayed many beautiful colored slides of dahlias, practically every one an origination from seeds produced in his own gardens. Among the beautiful and celebrated varieties thus displayed and having their origin in Lodge seeds were "Joyce Louise," a huge pink informal decorative; "Winsome," another large pink informal and "Pride of Austinburg," an old favorite too well known to require description.

Among foreign varieties pictured

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## Botanical Nomenclature— The Species

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

The specific name is of the nature of an adjective modifying the generic noun. Specific names should, in general, give some indication of the appearance, the character, the origin, the history, or the properties of the species. In adjectives proper, they agree with the generic noun in number, gender, and case. *Helianthus pumilus*, the dwarf sunflower, is masculine; *Betula pumila*, the dwarf birch, is feminine; *Chrysanthemum pumilum*, the dwarf Chrysanthemum, is neuter. *Pumilus* is an adjective of the first and second declensions. So adjectives of this declension have the nominative singular masculine in -er. So we have the *Helleborus niger*, and numerous other instances of unidentical endings in noun and adjective.

Nor do the adjectives of the third declension necessarily have endings identical with those of their generic nouns. Here we have many with masculine and feminine in -es, neuter in -e, *Narcissus incomparabilis* is masculine, *Erica gracilis* is feminine, *Blechnum occidentale* is neuter. Some have the nominative singular in -ens, for all genders, as in the masculine *Aster decurrens*, the feminine *Cleome pungens*, and the neuter *Pelargonium graveolens*. Occasionally these adjectives are in the form of the comparative degree, as in *Jacobinia obtusior*, or the superlative degree, as in *Lantana delicatissima*. The present active participle is freely employed adjectively as a specific name.

Specific names are frequently made from the names of places, countries, regions, or the like, whence supposedly they have come. Such names are formed in different ways, a favorite method being to convert the place name into an adjective of the first and second declensions. Thus we have the *Rubus americanus*, the *Anemone virginiana*, the *Iris virginica*, the *Lycium carolinianum*, and the like.

Not so obvious is the ancient

name of Portugal in the specific name *Lusitania*, the earlier name of Spain in hispanious, the ancient name of Carthage in *punicea*, the ancient name of Paris in *lutitanus*, or the German name of Louisiana in *ludovicianum*.

Frequently the place name is converted into an adjective with the Latin gentile termination -ensis, in the sense of belonging to, as in *Lupinus texensis*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, and *Geranium lancastriense*. The Romans used *forensis* of things pertaining to the forum, *castrensis* of things of the camp, *arvensis* of things of the field. *Hortensis* means of the garden, whence our feminine name *Hortensia*, *Hortense*, and other variants. *Capensis* refers to the Cape of Good Hope, *Kewensis*, to the Royal Gardens at Kew, *Gandavensis*, to Ghent Belgium, from a Latinized name of the city.

Sometimes these geographical names go astray, usually because of a mistaken idea as to the place where they were first found. For example, the Cherokee rose is from China, Portugal cypress is from Mexico, Spanish cedar belongs to the New World, the Arabian jasmine is from India, Virginia stock is not Virginian, Bethlehem sage is not Judean, the California pepper tree is not a native in California, and the English walnut is not English. The very name walnut, which is from the Old English *weald*, meaning foreign, shows that it is not native in England. But a name is a name for all that.

A country or other geographical area may have different appellations. China affords a good example. The Empire was officially *Chung Hwa Kwoh*, the Middle Flowery Kingdom, but it was the custom of the Chinese to call their country by the name of the ruling dynasty. When Europeans received their first knowledge of this country, which was in the third century B.C., it was under the rule of the



Chin dynasty, whence probably the name China. This name was Latinized as Sina and also Cina. Then Marco Polo brought back to Europe the name Cathay, derived from the Kitah race, who ruled North China in the tenth century. So we have *Abelia chinensis*, *Citrus sinensis*, *Rosa cathayensis*, and other binomials with these various names of China.

In the binomial *Chrysanthemum nipponicum* the adjective is based on the official name of Japan, *Nippon*; in *Camellia japonica* the base of the adjective is Japon, which, with Japan and other variant forms, is regarded as a corruption of Marco Polo's Zipangu, Nippon-country.

Names of men and women are likewise used adjectively in the specific name, as in *Ageratum Houstonianum*, for William Houston, an American physician. However, these personal names are most often nouns in the genitive case, the favorite declension being, for women's names, the first, for men's names, the second. *Eugenia Smithi* is the *Eugenia* of Mr. Smith. *Rosa Banksiae* is the rose of Lady Banks. But some few personal names follow the third declension, as in *Rosa Hugonis*, the rose of Mr. Hughes.

A few specific names, being in most cases historical in botanical literature, are nouns in apposition with the generic name, and can not be altered to agree with it in gender. *Chenopodium Bonus-Henricus* is the plant Good King Henry of the herbalists. *Persica*, in the binomial *Prunus Persica*, is always written with the capital because it was long the generic name of the peach, which was believed to have come from Persia. In *Nicotiana Tobacum* the specific name preserves the aboriginal name of tobacco. *Cherere*, in the binomial *Bignonia Cherere*, appears to be another such appositional noun, for no Latin noun has a genitive in -e, and no Latin adjective has a feminine nominative singular in -e. The French botanist Aublet spent several years in French Guiana, and on his return to France wrote his

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## Bird Parade—California Thrasher

By FRANK F. GANDER

One day late in April I walked at midday through a brushy canyon on the outskirts of the city. The sunlight was quite warm, and no breeze found its way down to the trail I followed. Bird voices were stilled; the shiny leaves of the sumac glistened motionless in the sunlight—only the insects were active, filling the heated air with their hum. In a brushy place I heard a rustling in the leaves and stopped in the shade of a holly-leaved cherry shrub to try and discover just what creature was stirring. Soon I heard the "chuck" of a California Thrasher, and then I saw the bird, an indistinct shadow moving among the shadows.

Feeling sure that the need which drove the bird forth to search for food at such an hour must be an imperative one, I stood very still that I might spy upon its activities. As the thrasher moved about, I could see that it was a good-sized bird, somewhat larger than a mocker and with a longer tail. It was the same gray-brown color as the dead leaves and shadows under the bushes so that, until it came quite near me, I could not see it clearly. Then, I noted that the under parts were a lighter tone, that the wings were quite short and the feet and legs large and strong, and that the beak was long and curved. What an efficient tool this beak proved to be!

The bird carried a gray larva, and every little bit would stop, put down the larva, and then whisk leaves right and left with its sickle-like beak until it laid bare the underlying humus in which it would dig industriously. Soon it uncovered another of the gray cut-worms, and with the two of them in its beak, it made a short flight across the stream bed in the bottom of the canyon, and then started up the slope across from me. Occasionally I caught glimpses of it as it ran from the shadow of one bush to that of another, and then, when I thought I had lost it completely,

a flutter of brown wings near the top of the slope attracted by attention in time for me to see the thrasher disappear into a lemonade-berry bush. Listening intently, I heard, faintly, the crying of nestling young, and I knew I had learned the reason for the bird's midday activity.

In the bottom of the canyon I found a bit of egg-shell, blue-green with fleckings of brown. Thus encouraged, I started up the slope toward the bush into which I had seen the thrasher vanish, and after arduous effort achieved the goal. There was the nest, a bulky structure of coarse sticks lined with finer material, and in it were three baby birds—homely, purple-skinned things scantily clothed with long, dark down. The parents were scurrying about emitting distressed "chucks," so I hurried away.

Later, these young birds, or some of their kin, visited my feeding station where they ate fruit, bread crumbs, and grain with equal relish. They looked like the old birds except for the beak which was much shorter, and even when the autumn molt was completed and the males were beginning to sing, this appendage had not yet attained its full length and curvature.

The song of the California Thrasher is enough like that of the Mockingbird to indicate its relationship to that bird, but it is stronger and more ruggedly primitive. It may be heard any time from October to the end of May, especially on clear mornings following rain. The singer can usually be seen, too, perched on the top of a sumac or other tall shrub. Do not try to approach too near for the bird will drop down among the bushes and be lost to you. Typical inhabitants of the chaparral, our thrashers will never fly when they can reach their objective by running, and so expertly do they weave their way through the shadowy aisles under the bushes that we can not hope to

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# COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—  
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—  
This garden game!*

## FUCHSIA JELLY

Assuming the possibility that some day we might not have enough of strawberries, blackberries, quince and so on, we shall turn to fuchsia berries, if we don't prefer to have flowers. Some of them taste much less "badly," less acrid than others. Our friend Lowell Redfield who is always up to some surprise, served Fuchsia Jelly recently. It was good and here is what he said: "When one's interest in a subject sets him to reading thereon, odd rare bits of knowledge often fall to his ken. So did I come by an old jelly recipe that used fuchsia berries. You may proceed, as I did, collecting berries from your plants. Some will be purple ripe, some green, put all in stew-pot (after a good rinse). Jelly makers know that green fruit is rich in pectin, the jelly forming element. With a dash of water, stew slowly to boiling point, then drain through bag. This juice, cup for cup with cane sugar, put back to stew until jelly shows on cold spoon, then put in glasses and seal. You have made jelly of rich clear claret color, with flavor akin to that of wild blackberry, huckleberry or elderberry jelly, yet quite fuchsia-distinctive." —G. Niederholtzer.

## ECHO FROM LA MESA

A round of loud cheers is due the author of the item "Residential Planting" in the May issue.

The patchwork quilt effect of all too many of our gardens is a thing many have deplored, but no one seems to be able to do anything about it. It may be that constantly talking and writing on the subject will some day bring about a change for the better. Surely it is not too much to hope for.

Considering what we have to work with, it should not be difficult for the smallest garden to be bright and interesting, without presenting

the cluttered or hit-and-miss aspect that is usually the result of a lack of plan. This fault is not confined to the smaller gardens, but is to be found in more pretentious plantings all too often.

The small plot owner may be excused on the grounds that the wealth and variety of material he has to choose from bewilders him to some extent, or that he sees more things he craves to own than he can possibly find room for. If he can only find space for a dozen plants, it seems silly to him not to have twelve different kinds. We may take comfort from the probability that if he is a genuine plant lover, or has within him the seed that will some day make him one, he will sooner or later see the error of his ways and begin to study his plant material and its relation to his particular plant needs. If he just plants a garden because it is the thing to do, there is not much hope of any change for the better in his planting scheme.

The purveyors of nursery stock have it within their power in some small degree to help on this change for the better in the planting habits of the public. It is plainly their duty to hand on to their patrons such knowledge as they may possess as to the suitability of the material they are selling for the particular use it is destined. If they fail to do this, and they do quite often, they may be forgiven, we hope, for, after all, they are in the business of selling plants. Their feeble effort to advise their patrons for their own good is too often bread cast upon the waters.

We have had one admirable example of the nurseryman who would not give you what you wanted unless you ought to have it. In this case it was a woman—K. O. Sessions, of blessed memory. She had a way of telling you in plain words that you couldn't have what you wanted, and you could take the advice or leave

it. But she wouldn't sell you the questionable item. Few of us have the courage for that stand, or the knowledge to back it up. But we could probably do better than we do. Most of us are tempted by the conviction that if we don't sell it, our competitors will. And they usually do. E.C.J.

## SPECIAL MAY MEETING

The San Diego Floral Association added a cultural feature to the activities of the month of May when a special meeting was given in the Floral Building with Mrs. Cora C. Lowry, speaker.

Mrs. Lowry for thirty-one years lived in Peking, China, where are found some of the oldest and most beautiful gardens in the world, and having lived in Peking before these gardens were open to the public, gave interesting personal experiences connected with the opening of these gardens for the enjoyment of others than the court.

With colored slides or cards used, all the work of a Chinese artist with composition perfect, and coloring authentic and perfect—she took her assembly of hearers to the Summer Palace and Jade Fountain, fifteen miles northeast of Peking and to North Lake, Peking, the pleasure garden of the Winter Palace, which dates back to the time of Kublai Khan, seven hundred years ago. A marked trait of the Chinese that they do not like their pictures taken necessitated the absence of any personal life on the slides.

Mrs. Lowry said that the Chinese people love flowers very much. She made mention of three classes of gardens, beginning with the Home Gardens which are very small; and of all gardens having common characteristics—squared and having a tree in each of the four right angles; of a fountain in the center. Running water is one of the essentials. Chinese emphasize continuity of great importance as it signifies happiness.

Scenes of several towerlike, storied structures—pagodas—usually a temple or a memorial of some kind—with accompanying scenery about them were unique.

Mrs. Greer, the president, introduced three Chinese girls of S. D., who were costumed in beautiful native dress. The girls passed scenic cards to the audience, representing by picture many interesting points emphasized by Mrs. Lowry.

### GET FIRE PERMITS

Recreation seekers who plan camping trips to the national forests of California are urged by the U. S. Forest Service to obtain campfire permits.

The permits, free of charge, are available from all forest supervisors and rangers. Other agencies authorized to issue the permits include offices of all automobile clubs in the State, the State Chamber of Commerce, and officials of the National Park Service, State Department of Natural Resources and county forestry departments. Special permits are required for camping in the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests of southern California where fire danger is more severe. The usual permit is issued for central and northern California forests.

Regional Forester S. B. Shaw said he is especially anxious that out of State motorists and other visitors learn State and county forest fire regulations for their personal protection and the safeguard of public property. He anticipates a great increase in forest recreation travel by visitors to Army camps, in addition to the growing influx of See-the-West tourists.

Last year more than 10,000,000 people visited the forests for outdoor recreation. Nearly half of these visitors were campers, picnickers, fishermen, hunters, snow sport fans, resort guests and summer home permittees.

The macchi is a dense tangle of arbutus, myrtle, thorn, laurel, broom and other flowering shrubs which cover the mountain sides of Corsica. The fragrance can be detected far out to sea.

The corresponding mat in southern California is known as chaparral and is also very fragrant.

## Cleanings from the Magazines

By IDA LOUISE BRYANT

The BEGONIAN, a new magazine to us, comes from Long Beach and is the official publication of the American Begonia Society, an affiliate of the American Horticultural Society. In the April number we find an interesting article on the Begonia "Dichroa" ("of two colors"), with a reference to the fine hybrids produced at the Rosecroft Gardens by Mr. Alfred Robinson; and the May issue has an account by Mrs. Robinson of their six years of experimentation with dichroa. This begonia, of the fibrous type, seems to possess a dual personality, along with its two colors: when its hybrids assume the procumbent form of the original Brazilian plant, discovered in 1906, they have glowing orange-colored blooms, and when it grows tall, straight stems, the blossoms are of the rose shades, not nearly so desirable.

The May BEGONIAN has an entertaining article called "THE CALLA BEGONIA and i," by Mr. Alfred Robinson, and anyone who has ever struggled with this temperamental collection of pink, red, green, and white leaves and blossoms, called, no one knows why, calla begonia, will realize the reason for the lower case "i." Which the printer, by the way, with an unhumorous lack of co-operation, did not furnish in the title; we hear low mutterings: "a lower case 'i' does NOT belong in a title with caps, and we'll be gormed if we'll have it there!"

While we're in a carping mood we'll toss a bouquet at the proof-reader, too, if any: the spelling throughout this otherwise fine little magazine, with its varied type-forms and good cuts, is atrocious. For example, lemon vergenia, and then lemon verbenis; azcelia, rhodedendrom; "sewing begonias, as long as seeds are fresh, as Mr. Robinson writes" . . . we know he wouldn't. And our pet detestation, using an apostrophe with the possessive form

for "it," these actually by the dozen; our own printer would NEVER be caught doing any of these unethical things, said she, smugly.

In DESERT PLANT LIFE for April we read with regret of the passing of one of its contributing editors, Charles Francis Saunders. His twelve books, on such varied subjects as trees, missions, and wild flowers, unfolded the beauties of his adopted state to thousands, and his lectures and magazine articles on California did much to help in the preservation of the state's beauty spots and historic points of interest. He will be greatly missed.

The CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of America, as reported in its Journal for May, is going to have its First National Convention in St. Louis on July 4 and 5. Garden trips, lectures, banquets and business sessions of the organization will be held, and we hear that the knotty question of nomenclature will be coming up for discussion on the afternoon of the Fourth. Judging from a word we catch here and there from cactophiles, the entertainment committee will need to spend no money on fireworks for that evening.

GOLDEN GARDENS for May tells of some new things collected by the U. of California Botanical Expedition to the Andes, in 1939, and of their successful growing under California conditions. Anyone who has any doubts as to the smallness of the world now-a-days needs only to look about a garden planted with the newer things and locate their original habitat; they have come, truly, from the far corners of the earth.

In the same magazine, an article by Mr. Hugh Evans on little known flowering vines describes five that would seem to come under the "super" classification; one in particular, sounds like a treasure: a trachelospermum (formerly rhynchospermum), from Korea with orange colored blooms, "fully as fragrant as the white, jasminoides form, and produced with us twice a year." At this time each year when the "star jasmine" over our front door is in bloom, a great starry mass whose heavenly odor per-



meates the whole house, we think that of all our pets there is none we'd be more lothe to give up. But an orange one, to vary the color scheme, would be lovely.

**GARDENERS' CHRONICLE** for May has suggestions for a fall garden full of bloom, in "Late-Blooming Annuals." Has anyone who goes away for a summer vacation ever succeeded in getting full enjoyment out of summer-sown zinnias? In a shady garden, of course, they're hard enough to raise at best; and when one isn't on hand to pounce on the first sign of mildew, and use fierce control measures, the jig is up. But, after all, compared with a fishing trip in the High Sierras, a camp on the shore of some rushing, icy stream where rainbows lurk, what are zinnias?

## APRIL MEETING

Continued from Page 2

were found "Vlammenspiel," a veritable mound of flame from Europe and "Charlotte E. Collis," a brilliant orange-scarlet importation from New Zealand.

After the showing of slides Mr. Lodge addressed the meeting and answered many questions as to the growing and care of dahlias, which he particularly stressed, are roots and not tubers or rhizomes.

He advised pinching out the center after four sets of leaves have appeared then disbudding on each of the laterals as side buds appear, thus insuring a larger, more perfect flower. He recommended the use of a 4-10-10 combination of fertilizer (which he said he had only been able to get from Silverthorn), at intervals of about a month, starting when the plant has attained a height of some twelve to fifteen inches.

Not so long ago, Mr. Lodge was honored by being called East to assist in the judging at the Midwest Dahlia Show at Cleveland, Ohio, then to New York City to assist at the American Dahlia Society show. These talks of Mr. Lodge have for years been a feature of the Association's program and are always deeply appreciated. The applause tendered the speaker on this occa-

# Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

## CULTURE

**Q.** I have had so much trouble in getting my trees and shrubs to grow properly. Perhaps it is because of the soil which is quite sandy. Will you please give me specific directions about irrigating (basin) and fertilizing.

J. A.

**A.** With reference to irrigating your trees, water should be applied from the drip of the leaves outward. If your basins do not extend beyond the outer leaf drip, they should be enlarged at once. Irrigation should be thorough when it is done and although it is difficult to state definite intervals between irrigations, due to varying climatic and soil conditions, once every two weeks or so during the summer and fall will be about right. Longer intervals, of course, should elapse during the cooler months.

In any case, an examination of the soil to a depth of 12 to 20 inches will give you a key as to when irrigation is needed. Often the soil surface will be dry while an abundance of moisture will be found at the root zone. A good mulching of bean straw, peat moss or strawy manure will tend to keep the surface area uniform in temperature and moisture.

Light, sandy soils are very apt to be devoid of plant food, hence a considerable quantity of the mulching materials mentioned above, or something similar, should be worked into the upper surface of the soil. Care should be taken not to unduly disturb the plant roots near the surface while doing this. In addition to the manure applied, it is sometimes valuable to add a little commercial fertilizer, using from

sion showed that this was no exception. S.H.C.

(Ed. Note: The lateness of this report on a superlative exposition of dahlia culture should serve to refresh and emphasize procedure as outlined for those present.)

a pound to a pound and a half per tree, commencing now and repeating two or three times during the season. The rate of application may be increased as your trees grow larger and should be carried on regularly each year in the early spring, early summer and early fall. It is best not to apply commercial fertilizer during the late fall and winter. A commercial fertilizer in the proportions of 4-8-4 (4 parts nitrogen, 8 parts phosphorus, and 4 parts potash, available at any fertilizer store) would be about right for trees and shrubs in addition to barnyard manures. Suphate of ammonia, from 2 to 4 pounds per tree and divided into two or three applications, 30 days apart, beginning early in April may be substituted for the commercial fertilizer referred to if you wish.

The commercial fertilizer or the sulphate of ammonia may be broadcasted at about the leaf drip and lightly raked in to be followed by a good irrigation.

\* \* \*

## TIPBURN-SPIDERS

**Q.** I am sending you with this, leaves of avocados and citrus. You will note that the citrus leaves are very pale and the avocado leaves are badly burned or dried up at the tips and along the edges. Why is this?

E.P.

**A.** The avocado leaves you sent indicated a trouble known as tip burn, largely due to excessive alkali or chlorine salts in the soil. This is particularly true of the sandy soils along the coast. Liberal applications of organic material such as bean straw and strawy manures will help to correct this condition as will irrigation with alkali-free water, or heavy rainfall, providing there is thorough drainage underneath to carry the excess salts away.

The citrus leaves indicated a very severe spider infestation in months past, although there were no spiders present on them at this time. Watch

the citrus trees in the future and when these tiny spiders appear, lose no time in spraying, using a light oil emulsion, or dusting with dry sulphur if the infestation occurs during warm weather.

\* \* \*

## DELAYED FOLIATION

Q. My peach trees are not going to leaf out as they should. This trouble has occurred before and I am wondering if there is anything I can do to help the situation. Please advise.

W. J.

A. The trouble is known as delayed foliation and is due to our mild winters. In the words of Professor Lesley, of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Berkeley:

"In climatic regions well adapted to the growth of subtropical fruit trees, most varieties of peaches are subject to delayed foliation, more appropriately termed prolonged dormancy. The flower and leaf buds remain dormant long after the coming of warm spring weather and eventually the flower buds may drop. A partial or total crop failure may ensue. Peaches require a certain amount of chilling to complete their rest period, and delayed foliation and blooming are caused by insufficient chilling. This chilling requirement is likely to be satisfied by about 2 months' exposure to temperatures between 32 degrees and 48 degrees F. A slight deficiency of chilling may prove beneficial by delaying and extending the period of blooming and so reducing the frost hazard.

"Peach varieties differ widely in chilling requirements, and, consequently, in susceptibility to prolonged dormancy. Varieties of the South China and Peento groups require relatively little chilling and are, accordingly, termed resistant; but most of the varieties of these groups that have been tried in California are seriously defective in other respects."

So it can be seen that our winter climate, so fine in other respects, makes trouble for southern California peach growers in the warmer districts. A wide search is under way for new peaches that will be

Continued on Page 9

# Pelargoniums . . . .

A year ago, the members and friends of the San Diego Floral Association were given a most informative talk by Mr. Silas B. Osborn, horticulturist, on Pelargoniums—so-called Geraniums—and again at the May meeting, Mr. Osborn addressed the club on the same subject with which he is so familiar in experience and study.

While parts of the talk was a necessitated reiteration of the former, it was adequately worthy. In the June 1940 issue of "California Garden" may be found an excellent article by Mr. Osborn on "Pelargoniums Are Garden Geraniums."

He stressed particularly the varieties and behavior of Pelargoniums, and said there are 300 known types. The crane's bill, the stork's bill and heron's bill having all-alike, five-petaled blossoms on stalks several inches tall, are true geraniums.

The show type of Pelargoniums—Martha Washington type—likes a heavy soil, well drained and with plenty of moisture. Light soil can be used with success in pots which are painted.

Rot this season, ruined more plants than the pests and bugs. For treatments and diseases, it is suggested expedient to seek Mr. Osborn's advice.

Among the many beautiful specimens of Pelargoniums which Mr. Osborn showed were the lemon-scented type, *P. limoneum*; the so-called apple or nutmeg geranium, *P. fragrans*; the pine-scented or balsam geranium, *P. denticulatum*; and the cactus geranium having thorny stems and tuberous roots and delicate white or lavender flowers with dark eyes on the upper petals, *P. echinatum*.

Some of the preferred varieties mentioned by Mr. Osborn are—Mrs. Mary Bard, snow white; Gardener's Joy, large ruffled white flowers with red markings on the petals; Edith North, deep salmon pink, recommended for pot plants, a free bloomer; Orchid Edith North orchid pink; Marie Vogel, red

shaded with salmon, large blossoms and beautiful foliage; Grossmama Fischer, clear salmon with dark spots—fades in the sun—and Whittsets Pride, large very dark maroon flowers.

Plants are easily grown from slips, and cuttings should be taken after the blooming season—July to Fall season—produce the best results.

Pruning the plants, one-half at a time, was a choice suggestion by Mr. Osborn. While the part which is pruned is growing new foliage, the other half carries onward the work of feeding the plant. When the new growth is developed, then prune the other half.

Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, presiding, reported with gratification the results of the Spring Flower Show—"the best show"—and excellent results, financially, as the exchequer is a support for the California Garden Magazine.

"The Geranium Show" will be held May 31st and June 1st in the Floral Building, Balboa Park. There

(Continued on Page 9)

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# The Species

Continued from Page 3

**Histoire des Plantes de Li Guiane francaise**, in which he described a plant which he called *kerere*. This was the name of the plant in its native Guiana. He classified it as *Bignonia Kerere*. Later a specimen of a plant from central Mexico was presented to Dr. Lindley, who figured it in the Botanical Register as *Bignonia Cherere*, supposing it to be the *Bignonia Kerere* of Aublet. But the Aublet species has smaller flowers than the Lindley species, and they are yellow, whereas the flowers of the Lindley species are red. So it turns out that the Carib name *Kerere*, or *Cherere*, is meaningless as a designation of the Mexican plant in the binomial *Bignonia Cherere*. The personal name in the binomial *Bougainvillea Mrs. Praetorius* is without doubt an appositive noun, and it is reasonable to suppose that the name is thus preserved unaltered.

There are a few mistakes of a grammatical nature in the formation of the binomials, but many cases of apparent disagreement between adjective and noun are quite regular. With the Greeks and Romans, trees and plants were commonly feminine in gender no matter what the grammatical form of the name. So we have binomials such as *Quercus agrifolia*, *Pinus Torreyana*, *Ficus carica*. The binomial *Aethionema cordifolium*, the stone-creep, is likewise correctly formed, for here *Aethionema* is a Greek neuter, nominative singular. The author of a botanical name may choose a Greek form if only it is harmonious with the Latin forms. *Aethionema* is from a coined Greek *aithios*, bright, from the Greek *aithos*, burning heat, fire, and *nema*, thread, in allusion to the appearance of the stamens.

Specific names ending in *-oides* and *-odes* present another case of apparent lack of agreement between adjective and noun. These suffixes are New Latin, and are derived as follows: The Greek noun *eidos*, meaning form, gives the suffix

*-oides*, of the form of, like. Example, *anthropo-oides*, of the form of man. This suffix, together with the final *-o* of the preceding element, gives *-o-oides*. In the transliteration from the Greek to the Latin letters the diphthong *ei* regularly becomes *i*, and we have then *-o-ides*, that is, *-oides*. This *o* is always the final vowel of the element preceding *-oides* in a Greek compound, either as a stem vowel, a thematic vowel, or a combining vowel supplied. In Greek and Latin and the modern European languages the *-o-* and the following letter are in separate syllables, but the English everywhere are inclined to pronounce these compounds as if *o* and *i* formed a diphthong, as in the word *void*.

A parallel Greek formation is the contracted form of the suffix *-oides*, in which long *o* represents the letters *oei* of the full form. Example, *lithodes*, stone-like, for *lithoeides*. This contracted form *-odes* gives the suffix *-odes* of botanical nomenclature.

Names formed with these suffixes are singular, and belong with adjectives of one termination in the nominative; so a specific name in *-oides* or *-odes* may modify a generic noun of any gender. In *Amaranthus blitoides* we have agreement with a masculine noun, in *Erica codonodes* we have agreement with a feminine noun. In *Hespericum gentianoides* we have agreement with a neuter noun. Many of these adjectives are newly made from Greek elements. With elements other than Greek the Latin suffix *-formis* is preferred by our modern name-makers.

This suffix is from the Latin noun *forma*, meaning shape. It forms adjectives of two terminations, with masculine and feminine in *-formis*, neuter in *-forme*. In *Juncus filiformis*, the thread-form *Juncus*, we have agreement with a masculine noun, in *Acacia cultriformis*, the knife-shaped *Acacia*, we have agreement with a feminine noun, in *Hypericum dolabriforme*, the ax-shaped *Hypericum*, we have agreement with a neuter noun.

The combination of *-formis* with an adjective or noun denoting the

kind of form is modern usage. In Classic Latin we find *-formis* in combination only with a prefix denoting number, and the like, as in *uniformis*, of one form, *biformis*, of double form. Janus, with his two faces, was called *Biformis*. And we have this use of *-formis* exemplified in our botanical names, as in the binomial *Epiphyllum biformis*, the double-form *Epiphyllum*, with its branches of two different shapes. In Classic Latin a compound adjective denoting shape would be formed otherwise, often with *-oides* or *-odes*. We have the New Latin *stellatus* and *stelliformis*, both meaning star-shaped, but in the living Latin *stellatus* meant studded with stars, and *stelliformis* does not appear. The word *cruciformis* is New Latin. Our botanical *cruciatum*, cross-shaped, in the living Latin meant tortured. Our botanical *cordatus*, heart-shaped, meant of good heart. Thus the Latin of our bo-

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tanical nomenclature is New Latin if it is here given a different meaning from that of the equivalent form in the living language.

In a few cases the form of the specific name is misleading. For example, in the binominal *Ilex aquifolium* (English holly) the specific name appears to be a compound of the Latin *equa*, water, and *folium*, leaf, and thus to signify water-leaf. But in Bailey's Manual we find "Aquifolium: Latin point and leaf, referring to the spiny leaves." This explanation points to the Latin *acus*, needle, as the source of the element *aqu-* (the - following u is the combining vowel supplied). Why the author of this name (Linnaeus) wrote *acuifolium* the u of *acui-* being followed by a vowel, would have the value of w, and in Latin would be written qu. In the declension of the pronoun *qui*, *quae*, *quod* note the genitive *cuius* and the dative *cui*, where u has the value of a vowel.

In the binominal *Quercus agrifolia* (our live oak) the application of the adjective is not clear. *Agri* is surely the genitive of the Latin *ager*, field, and thus *agrifolia* would mean leaf of the field, a vague description of the live oak leaf. Bailey takes the name to mean scabby. Some writers explain it as meaning wild, rude, not conforming in shape, habit, or other characteristics. It could be an error for *aquifolia*, spiny-leaved. Linnaeus is the author of the binominal *Quercus agrifolia* as well as the binominal *Ilex aquifolium*.

Through the botanic types a plant name may be carried up through the ranks of the system as far as the order. Thus the order *Rosales* takes its name from that of the type family *Rosaceae*. *Rosaceae* is from the name of the type genus *Rosa*. *Rosa* is the ancient name of species of the rose.

With respect to the pronunciation of botanical names it may be said that there is no reason why we should not follow the method in use in our American schools, which is, so far as it is known, the pronunciation of the Romans themselves at the height of their civilization. However, English-speaking

peoples generally use the so-called English method, which follows the analogies of English pronunciation according to certain formal rules. This is the pronunciation indicated in our English dictionaries.

—Etta Florence Adair.

### MAY MEETING

Continued from Page 7  
will also be a White Elephant Table, and Mrs. Greer made an urgent appeal for members and friends to contribute liberally as possible to both.

Mr. Perry of Balboa Park gave generously of poinsettia cuttings—both single and double—for distribution to the club members and friends. And from Albright's, liberal samples of Gaviota, a Garden and Lawn Fertilizer, were donated.

The "New Guide of Balboa Park" books for which the club donated funds, were for sale.

A special meeting to be given at the Floral Building, May 27th, was announced and Mrs. Cory C. Lowry, recently from China, will give a talk on the beautiful Imperial Gardens of Peking.

G.M.G.

### Problems of the Soil

Continued from Page 7  
resistant to this delayed foliation trouble and already a number of valuable varieties are being developed. It is predicted that within a reasonable time the peach growing industry in the warmer section of Southern California will be revolutionized by the removal of old varieties subject to delayed foliation and the substitution of resistant sorts.

### California Thrasher

Continued from Page 3  
follow them. The wise bird student does not try. Instead, he sits down in some bushy canyon, makes screeching noises with his lips, and in a short time has the Sickle-bills chucking and peering at him from all sides.

Natural History Museum.

—Frank Forrest Gander.

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